

# memorandum

DATE: February 15, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jay Marcotte  
Project Manager – KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** To provide BPA funding to acquire the Cedarosa Phase I completion parcel and to maintain this parcel and the 3 other Phase I parcels for fish habitat protection.

**Budget Information:** Work Order # 00266311

**Fish and Wildlife Project No.:** 2009-003-00, BPA-004560

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.25** Transfer, lease, disposition or acquisition of interests in uncontaminated land for habitat preservation or wildlife management, and only associated buildings that support these purposes. Uncontaminated means that there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that would pose a threat to public health or the environment.

**Location:** The Cedarosa Phase I completion property is located near Mazama, Washington in Okanogan County, Washington along the Methow River. Legal description is Township 36 North, Range 19 East, Section 9.

**Proposed by:** BPA, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation) and the Methow Conservancy, a Washington nonprofit corporation.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to work with the Yakama Nation to fund the Methow Conservancy's acquisition of one parcel and to fund the maintenance of this parcel and three others previously acquired in early 2010 in the upper Methow River watershed. The property is being acquired to ensure the ongoing success of a BPA-Yakama Nation riparian protection project in the area of Cedarosa. The Cedarosa area, as a whole, is 60 acres in size and has been subdivided into smaller lots. This purchase would complete an initial phase of acquisitions by protecting an additional parcel from development and contribute to the improvement of riparian fish habitat for spring Chinook and steelhead salmon stocks as well as Columbia River bull trout, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act (3 other parcels were acquired in early 2010). The acquisition would help the Yakama Nation and BPA meet the goals and objectives of fish habitat mitigation addressed in their Columbia Basin Fish Accord agreement. The acquisition is being undertaken pursuant to an agreement between BPA and the Methow Conservancy relating to habitat acquisitions. Whether or not BPA will fund future acquisitions in the Cedarosa area will depend on several factors, including the habitat restoration potential for the entire Cedarosa area and whether there are willing sellers; BPA will conduct further environmental review at that time.

Once the property is purchased the Methow Conservancy will develop an interim management plan to identify any activities that may be needed to protect and preserve the property's value for

fish. Eventually the Methow Conservancy intends to resell the property, at which time the conservancy would place a perpetual conservation easement on the property to ensure its permanent protection for fish and wildlife habitat. The Methow Conservancy would hold the perpetual conservation easement and BPA would retain rights to enforce the easement. If BPA funds any management or restoration activities on the property, BPA would conduct further environmental review. The purchase of the property is expected to be completed in March 2011.

**Findings:** BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Jennifer Stolz

Jennifer Stolz

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 16, 2011

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Cederosa Phase I Completion

Project #: 2009-003-00; BPA-004560

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect With Conditions
1. Cultural Resources No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Jennifer Stolz

Date: February 15, 2011